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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda items 64 and 81
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Identical letters dated 5 June 1998 from the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Our respective Governments have already expressed their grave concerns about the testing of nuclear devices by India and Pakistan, considering that those events could have most dangerous consequences for regional stability, international peace and security and the international nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Our countries note the initial reaction on the part of the United Nations in reply to those developments. We maintain the strong view that its relevant organs should remain seized of the matter in order to examine comprehensively and further explore proactive responses to the situation created by the recent nuclear tests in South Asia and their implications for nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.

Bearing in mind the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, we believe that the convening of a formal meeting of this organ to consider all aspects of this situation at which Member States non-members of the Security Council could participate, would be an appropriate next step. Such a meeting could usefully accompany the adoption of any Security Council resolution on this issue.

Our countries would like to take this opportunity to reiterate their commitment contained in the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the General Assembly, under items 64 and 81, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Fernando PETRELLA
Permanent Representative of Argentina
to the United Nations

(Signed) Penelope WENSLEY
Permanent Representative of Australia
to the United Nations

(Signed) Robert FOWLER
Permanent Representative of Canada
to the United Nations

(Signed) Juan LARRAÍN
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Chile
to the United Nations

(Signed) Yerzhan KAZYKHANOV
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Republic
of Kazakhstan to the United Nations

(Signed) Michael POWLES
Permanent Representative of
New Zealand to the United Nations

(Signed) See-Young LEE
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Korea to the United Nations

(Signed) V. YEL'CHENKO
Permanent Representative of
Ukraine to the United Nations

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